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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 1, 2010

Baku, June 1, 2010 – Ambassador Richard L. Morningstar, the U.S. Secretary of State's Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy, this morning read a letter from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the opening ceremonies of the 17th Caspian International Oil and Gas Conference. The text of the letter follows:

His Excellency
Dr. İlham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Baku

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the opening of the Seventeenth Caspian International Oil and Gas Conference.

Your country has emerged as an important and reliable supplier of energy to world markets. Azerbaijan is an example of how energy resources hold the promise of linking people through trade and investment. Your country's commitment to develop its resources in a responsible manner has resulted in rapid economic progress and the creation of professional opportunities for thousands of Azerbaijani citizens. This in turn has enhanced your country's independence. Working closely with your regional neighbors, including Georgia and Turkey, Azerbaijan has successfully developed the East-West Energy Corridor, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and South Caucasus gas pipeline. These projects epitomize what can be achieved with dedication and cooperation. The United States is proud to have been a partner of Azerbaijan in realizing these important projects.

As we look to the future, the United States supports your efforts to develop your oil and natural gas fields and to diversify your energy supply routes. This will benefit Azerbaijan as a producer country, while also enhancing energy security for consumer countries. In particular, we look forward to Azerbaijan's continued leadership in realizing the Southern Corridor for gas transport to Europe in the near future. In Azerbaijan's drive to continue developing its energy resources, you will find a strong partner in the United States.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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